

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 10 are allowed in this application. Claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled. Due to informality, an amendment has been made to the specification. In light of the amendment made to the specification, Claim 1 has been amended as well. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended per examiner's suggestions. Claim 9 has been amended to eliminate an inconsistency between claim 9 and the disclosure at page 10, line 18 of the specification. No new claims have been added.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC § 103(a). Applicant has cancelled claims 11 and 12. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn as moot.

CONCLUSION

Favorable action on claims 1-10 is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gerald M. Murphy, Jr. (Reg. No. 28,977) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

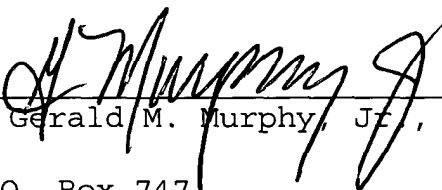
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



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